

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LUIS FABIAN RAMIREZ-CAMPOS,

Defendant.

8:14CR22

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the court on the defendant's motion to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence under [28 U.S.C. § 2255](#), [Filing No. 42](#), and on counsel's motion to withdraw, [Filing No. 47](#). The defendant seeks relief under *Johnson v. United States*, [135 S. Ct. 2551 \(2015\)](#). Counsel was appointed to represent the defendant under the court's general order. See General Order No. 2016-07, *In Re Petitions Arising Under Johnson v. United States*, [135 S. Ct. 2551 \(2015\)](#).

In *Johnson*, the Supreme Court invalidated the residual clause of the Armed Career Criminal Act of 1984 ("ACCA"), 18 U.S.C. § 924(e)(2)(B)(ii), which defined "violent felony" as a crime that "involves conduct that presents a serious potential risk of physical injury to another" as unconstitutionally vague in violation of due process of law. *Id.* at 2557. The ACCA sets a statutory minimum sentence for a felon with three or more prior convictions for a violent felony. [18 U.S.C. § 924\(e\)](#). The Supreme Court has also found *Johnson* is retroactive in cases on collateral review. *Welch v. United States*, [136 S. Ct. 1257, 1268 \(2016\)](#).

The court has reviewed the record and finds *Johnson* has no application to this case. The record shows that the defendant was sentenced, pursuant to a plea

agreement, to a prison term of 70 months for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in violation of [21 U.S.C. § 846](#). [Filing No. 37](#), Judgment. His sentence was not enhanced under the ACCA, nor did he receive a career offender enhancement under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, [U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1](#). See [Filing No. 35](#), Presentence Investigation Report (sealed) ("PSR") at 10-12.¹ His sentence was based on a plea agreement and drug quantity. *Id.* at 6.

Ramirez-Campos's sentence was not based on the residual clause of the ACCA. No definitions of "crimes of violence" were implicated and no prior conviction was used to enhance the defendant's sentence. Therefore, the *Johnson* decision is inapplicable, here, and the defendant's claim fails. The court finds it plainly appears from the face of the motion and the record that the defendant is not entitled to relief, and his motion is subject to dismissal under Rule 4(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings.

Counsel has shown that there are no non-frivolous claims for relief under *Johnson* and the court finds counsel should be allowed to withdraw. Further, there appears to be no need for a hearing and the hearing previously scheduled herein will be cancelled.

¹ The PSR states that defendant was responsible for 4 kilograms of methamphetamine, resulting in a base offense level of 34, less 3 levels for acceptance of responsibility for a base offense level of 31. [Filing No. 35](#), PSR (sealed) at 6. He received a two-level reduction under U.S.S.G. 2D1.1(b)(16) (the safety valve) and also received the benefit of a two-level reduction under the Sentencing Commission's then-pending proposed changes in the base offense levels for various drug quantities for a total offense level of 27. *Id.* at 11-12. At criminal history category I and offense level 27, the defendant's Guidelines sentencing range was 70-87 months. *Id.* at 12. Although the count of conviction carried a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years, the court did not impose the mandatory minimum by virtue of operation of the "safety valve" under [18 U.S.C. § 3553\(f\)](#). See [Filing No. 38](#), Statement of Reasons (sealed) at 1; [Filing No. 35](#), PSR (sealed) at 11.

The defendant must make a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right in order to be granted a certificate of appealability in this case. See [Miller-El v. Cockrell](#), 537 U.S. 322 (2003). “A substantial showing is a showing that issues are debatable among reasonable jurists, a court could resolve the issues differently, or the issues deserve further proceedings.” [Cox v. Norris](#), 133 F.3d 565, 569 (8th Cir. 1997). Moreover, “ ‘[w]here a district court has rejected the constitutional claims on the merits, the showing required to satisfy § 2253(c) is straightforward: The petitioner must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court’s assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong.’ ” [Miller-El](#), 537 U.S. at 338 (quoting [Slack v. McDaniel](#), 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)). The court finds the defendant’s motion does not present questions of substance for appellate review and, therefore, does not make the requisite showing to satisfy § 2253(c). See 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); Fed. R. App. P. 22(b). Accordingly, no certificate of appealability pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c) will issue. Should the defendant wish to seek further review of his petition, he may request a certificate of appealability from a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. See [Tiedman v. Benson](#), 122 F.3d 518, 520-22 (8th Cir. 1997).

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The defendant’s motion to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence ([Filing No. 42](#)) is denied.
2. Counsel’s motion to withdraw ([Filing No. 47](#)) is granted.

3. The hearing scheduled for November 14, 2016 at 11:00 AM in Courtroom No. 3, Roman L. Hruska U.S. Courthouse, 111 South 18th Plaza, Omaha, NE before Senior Judge Joseph F. Bataillon is cancelled.

4. No certificate of appealability pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2253\(c\)](#) will issue.

5. This action is dismissed.

6. A Judgment in conformity with the Memorandum and Order will issue this date.

DATED this 21st day of July, 2016.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Joseph F. Bataillon
Senior United States District Judge